[Translation]

Financial Assistance by NSSIC

4611. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Small Scale Industries Corporation provided financial assistance to some new units during 1994-95 in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to enlarge the scope of National Small Scale Industries Corporation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1994-95, the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) Ltd. has provided financial assistance to 25 new units for a total amount of Rs. 137.20 lakhs.

(c) to (e). Enlarging the scope of NSIC is within the purview of Board of Management. Recently, NSIC has drawn up a 10 year Corporate Plan outlining its activities, beginning from 1997.

Capital Investment

4612. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total capital invested in Central Public Sector Undertakings as on date;

(b) the total number of employees working in these undertakings; and

(c) the percentage of profit earned during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the additional capital invested during the above years in the Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As on 31.3.95, upto which period audited information is available, the capital invested in Central Public Sector Undertakings was Rs. 172438 crores.

(b) The total number of regular employees working in these PSUs was 20.41 lakhs.

(c) The percentage of profit earned during 1993-94 and 1994-95, to capital employed is given in Statement No. 10 of Volume-I of Public Enterprises Survey 1993-94 and 1994-95 laid in Parliament on 22.3.95 and 19.7.96 respectively. The additional capital invested during 1993-94 and 1994-95 was Rs. 17373 crores and Rs. 7478 crores respectively.

New Direct Tax Law

4613. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:
SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a group of experts to suggest the recommendations to simplify the direct tax law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the expert group will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has set up an expert group with a view to rationalising and simplifying the Income-tax Act, 1961 to rewrite a new Direct Tax law.

(c) The expert group has started functioning and has been asked to submit its draft report by 31st December, 1996.

[English]

Import Duty on Coal

4614. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee has recommended for lowering of import duty on coal from 30 per cent to 5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Expert Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent up to which it is likely improve growth of coastal cement plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Industry (Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion) have intimated that the Development Council for cement industry and the Task Force on Cement Industry for the Ninth Five year plan constituted by the Planning Commission have recommended lowering of import duty on coal from 35 per cement to 5 per cent.